MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 AUGUST 1984

Lebanon

Chief of Staff's Death — Reacting to the death of Army Chief of Staff Major General Nadim al-Hakim, the highest-ranking Druze militaryman, in a helicopter crash, Druze political leader Walid Junblatt stated in remarks reported by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that it increases "our reservations about the role of the military establishment" and that investigations will not be "convincing." Al-Hakim's death will increase the determination to "march" from the "accursed ruling party," Junblatt added. Regarding the crash, "security reports said there was no collision and witnesses said the helicopter was burning before it crashed, according to Voice of the Mountain. The radio reported that the funeral for Al-Hakim and two others will be on 25 August.

Political Developments — Junblatt met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus and discussed the security plan for the mountain, Beirut radio reported. Junblatt then returned to Beirut after canceling his visit to Romania, Radio Monte Carlo added. Khaddam also received in separate meetings an Islamic delegation from Tripoli and the leader of the Democratic Arab Party, and discussed with them plans for a cease-fire in the city, the radio disclosed. After departing Damascus, the Islamic delegation met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Beirut to inform him of their talks, Beirut radio reported. Karami also received Saudi mediator Rafiz al-Hariri, and they discussed political and security developments as well as plans for reconstructing areas in Beirut, the radio noted.

Bridge to South — the Batir ash-Shuf Bridge across the Al-Awwali River was reopened after being closed since 19 August, Jerusalem radio reported. Travelers may now travel across only as pedestrians or via organized public transportation.

Libya-Syria

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi and Revolution Command Council member Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President Khaddam following the Syrian delegation's arrival in Banghazi, SANA reported. In remarks upon his arrival cited by the agency, Al-Asad stated that the visit is in the context of exchanging views on bilateral relations and pan-Arab issues.

Egypt

Ambassador to the USSR Salah Basyuni departed Cairo to take up his new post in Moscow, Cairo radio reported.

Gulf Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force "effectively hit" a "large maritime target" south of Khark Island on 24 August, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio. Lloyd's of London identified the vessel as the Cypriot tanker *Amethystos* and reported that a "serious" fire had broken out on board, AFP added. The Iraqi Air Force had earlier "accurately and effectively hit" a "large maritime target" south of Khark Island at 1040 GMT on 23 August, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Monitored Iranian sources have not reported either attack, although Bushehr radio had announced a "red alert condition" for Bushehr at 1035 GMT on 23 August because of the "danger of an air attack."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Reportage on Hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight

Plane Ordered to Pakistan

BK240413 Hong Kong AFP in English 0411 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP) — An Indian Airlines plane on a domestic flight from Chandigarh to Srinagar in Kashmir was hijacked today, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency said.

The identity of the hijackers was not immediately known, PTI said.

The pilot was ordered to fly to Pakistan and was now above Lahore, near the Indian border, the agency added.

Pakistani authorities have so far refused permission for the plane to land, PTI said.

The plane was on a scheduled flight from Chandigarh, capital of the Sikh-dominated Punjab State, to Srinagar, capital of Kashmir State.

Government Accuses 'Sikh Militants'

BK240644 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP) — Sikh militants were responsible for hijacking an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 today to Lahore, Pakistan, and have demanded to be taken to the United States, the government told Parliament here.

Federal minister for civil aviation, Khursheed Alam Khan, told Parliament that the pilot, Captain V.K. Mehta and co-pilot were both unconscious, but did not say what had happened to them.

He said the hijackers had allowed Pakistani authorities to provide medical aid for them. It was not clear what form this would take.

The minister said the hijackers had set demands which included the setting up of an independent Khalistan, Sikh homeland.

They had also asked for the plane to be refuelled to take them to the United States. The minister said there were 86 passengers and six crew on board.

He said he understood the aircraft doors were still closed.

Extradition of Hijackers Demanded

BK240742 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP) — Twelve Sikh militants hijacked an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 to Lahore, Pakistan, early today and demanded to be flown to the United States, Federal Civil Aviation Minister Khursheed Alam Khan told Parliament.

The hijackers had threatened to kill the 86 passengers on board one by one if their demands for the plane to be refuelled were not met within half an hour, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported in a dispatch from Islamabad.

The plane was hijacked while on a routine domestic flight from New Delhi to Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, with a brief stopover in Chandigarh, capital of Sikh-dominated Punjab, Mr. Alam Khan told Parliament. He said the plane's pilot, Captain V. K. Mehta, and co-pilot were unconscious but added that the hijackers had allowed medical aid to be brought to them. He did not say what had happened to them.

He confirmed there were 86 passengers and six crew on board, correcting earlier information which said there were 112 people on the plane.

Mr. Alam Khan said the hijackers were also calling for an independent Sikh homeland — Khalistan.

The government said it had urged the Pakistani Government not to allow the Boeing to leave Lahore for the United States.

Pakistan authorities earlier told India that they had initially refused permission for the plane to land, but had later agreed after it became clear it was running short of fuel.

On July 5 there was a similar hijacking by Sikh militants of an India Airlines' Airbus to Lahore. The passengers were freed and the plane returned to India after Pakistani authorities persuaded the militants to surrender.

Pakistan said the hijackers would be tried under Pakistani law. India has demanded their extradition.

The Punjab has been the scene of a Sikh autonomy campaign for more than two years with militants demanding secession from India.

Minister on Hijackers' Threats

BK240747 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] An Indian Airlines plane with 86 passengers and a crew of 6 has been hijacked to Lahore. The flight, No. IC-421, was on a flight from Delhi to Srinagar via Chandigarh and Jammu. The plane — a Boeing 737 — was taken over by the hijackers shortly after it took off from Chandigarh at 0725 [0155 GMT]. The plane landed at Lahore Airport at about 0950 [0420 GMT]. The identity and the number of hijackers is not immediately known. Earlier, agency reports said that the hijackers raised pro-Khalistan slogans.

The minister for civil aviation, Mr Khursheed Alam Khan, told the Lok Sabha that the hijackers are demanding immediate refuelling of the plane for being flown to the United States.

They have threatened to kill a passenger every 15 minutes if their demands are not met. They have also threatened to blow up the plane.

The minister said that after the incident the pilot and the copilot lost consciousness. Mr Khurshid Alam Khan said that he would make a detailed statement in the afternoon.

The aircraft is piloted by Captain V.K. Mehta and Captain D.L. Bhai is the copilot. The other crew members are: Steward B.K. Mehta, and Air Hostesses Miss Urvashi, Miss Singh, and Miss (?Samrath).

According to agency reports, the Pakistani authorities first refused the aircraft to land, but subsequently allowed it because the plane was running short of fuel. Earlier, the hijackers did not allow the pilot to cotact the Amritsar airport. A report from Amritsar said the plane hovered over the city for about half an hour before heading for Lahore. According to an airlines spokesman, 31 passengers boarded the plane at Chandigarh.

Opposition Criticizes Chandigarh Security

BK240901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Excerpts] An Indian Airlines plane with 86 passengers and a crew of 6 has been hijacked to Lahore.

The break up of the passengers is 67 men, 14 women, 5 children, and an infant; 41 passengers boarded the plane at Chandigarh.

The civil aviation minister, Mr Khursheed Alam Khan, told the Lok Sabha that the hijackers are demanding immediate refueling of the plane for being flown to the United States. There are 12 hijackers and the leader is one (Malawar Khan). They are members of the so-called Khalistan Federation.

The minister said shortly after 1000 this morning, the hijackers threatened that if the plane is not refueled immediately, they will blow it up. Within a minute they gave another threat that if the plane is not refueled, they will kill one passenger every 15 minutes. They also wanted to meet the hijackers of the Indian Airliners aircraft hijacked earlier.

Mr Khursheed Alam Khan said the pilot and the copilot have lost consciousness after the hijacking. The hijackers had given them medicine.

The minister made the statement when opposition members raised the matter immediately after the Lok Sabha assembled this morning. He said he was making the statement from the sketchy information in possession. He would make a detailed statement in the afternoon.

Opposition members criticized the security arrangements at Chandigarh and said they were worried about the safety of the passengers.

The Indian Airlines has opened a special information counter at Palam Airport. The information relating to the hijacked incident can be obtained on telephone numbers 393819 and 393599.

Pakistan radio announced a shortwhile ago that the hijacked plane is still at Lahore.

A report just received says Pakistani authorities have granted permission for refueling the hijacked plane. The refueling is expected to start any moment.

Intruding Pakistani Soldiers Reportedly Killed

OW231818 Hong Kong AFP in English 1746 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug 23 (AFP) — As many as 10 Pakistani troops were killed by Indian soldiers when they intruded into Indian territory in Jammu Kashmir, bordering Pakistan, yesterday, it was reported here today.

The news agency UNITED NEWS OF INDIA quoting official sources said the Pakistani intruders were shot dead in the Kargil sector of Ladakh region when they refused to retreat into their territory.

The motive of the intruders was not immediately known.

One source gave the number of Pakistanis killed as 10.

A Defence Ministry source here then said Indian forces lost one soldier.

Meanwhile, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reports from Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, said six intruding Pakistani solders were killed and four others seriously injured in yesterday's incident.

Quoting an official report, PTI said Pakistani soldiers had intruded into the Indian side of the actual line of control. Indian soldiers repeatedly warned them to go back to their side of the line. When the Pakistani soldiers ignored the warning, the security forces opened fire.

The official report said a flag meeting between the Indian and Pakistani sides was held today to enable the Pakistani side to remove the bodies, the agency added.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Announces Resignation

BK240822 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP) — The Andhra Pradesh state governor, Ram Lal, who aroused fierce controversy when he dismissed Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao last week, today announced he was quitting, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said in a dispatch.

Mr Lal sacked Mr. Rama Rao on August 16 on the grounds that he had lost a working majority in the Andhra Legislative Assembly following defections from his regional Telegu Desam Party, a charge strongly disputed by Mr. Rama Rao.

Outrage over the dismissal of the film star turned politician sparked rioting in the southern state which left at least 26 people dead by official counts and galvanised the opposition parties into a rare show of unity against the ruling Congress Party.

Mr. Rama Rao returned only yesterday from New Delhi where he had led a rally of his supporters in the State Assembly to prove in person to President Zail Singh that he retained a majority despite the governor's action. They demanded the dismissal of the federally appointed governor and of the successor state

government headed by a Telegu Desam breakaway group and Mr. Rama Rao's reinstatement.

Issues Communique on Resignation

BK240854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] The governor of Andhra Pradesh, Mr Ram Lal, has announced his decision to resign. In a press communique issued from the Raj Bhavan [Governor House] in Hyderabad this morning, Mr Ram Lal said he has taken the decision to resign to uphold the dignity and prestige of the high office of governor. Mr Ram Lal maintained that he had invited Mr Bhaskara Rao to become chief minister only after fully satisfying himself that Mr Rao commanded majority support in the state legislative assembly. Mr Ram Lal said he was pained by the controversy which he felt is lowering the prestige of the office of governor.

Rama Rao Blames Gandhi for Toppling Ministry

BK231259 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Aug 84

[From "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The former chief minister of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, has said he is launching a campaign of agitation to force the authorities to convene a session of the state assembly. Mr Rama Rao, who was dismissed last week after the state governor ruled that he had lost his majority in the assembly, said he wanted a test of rival claims to the state leadership.

The former chief minister speaking at a news conference in Delhi also alleged that Mrs Gandhi's Indira Congress Party had made attempts to buy off state legislators in Andhra Pradesh. This report by Satish Jacob in Delhi:

Mr Rama Rao came to Delhi on Monday to demonstrate his majority support to the president, Zail Singh, but he said today that although he had the highest regard for the office of president, he did not expect justice in Delhi. He said that was why he was going back to his state to launch a campaign of agitation. He plans to conduct public rallies in all the major towns starting with Vijayawada on Saturday.

Mr Rama Rao said Mrs Gandhi will be responsible for any trouble, and he blamed Mrs Gandhi for the dismissal of his government.

He said: I know she has done it. She did it in Kashmir, and she did it to my government. Mrs Gandhi is obsessed with power; she does not tolerate opposition.

This is the first time the former chief minister has openly blamed Mrs Gandhi. And when Mr Rama Rao's attention was drawn to Mrs Gandhi's statement in Parliament that she had no prior knowledge of the governor's intention to dismiss the government, Mr Rama Rao said he did not believe it. He accused Mrs Gandhi's party of trying to bribe legislators loyal to him.

Mr Rama Rao made it clear that the only object of the agitation campaign in Andhra Pradesh is to get the assembly convened as soon as possible. If that didn't work he would launch a nationwide campaign.

We read you that report by Satish Jacob.

Hopes Assembly Convenes Soon

BK240526 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N. Bhaskara Rao, has said his government is committed to cooperate with the center to promote national integration. He was inaugurating the 113th birth anniversary celebrations of Andhra Kesari Telugu (Turi Prakasham) in Hyderabad yesterday. Meanwhile, all the five members of Legislative Assembly belonging to the Majlis-i-Ittehad-i-Muslemeen have reiterated their support to the chief minister, Mr Bhaskara Rao.

The former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, has expressed the hope that the state assembly will be convened soon. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad on his return from Delhi yesterday, Mr Rama Rao said the president had been very kind to hear his plea. He asserted that the present ministry in the state is not that of the Telugu Desam Party.

Gandhi Defends Position on Democratic Actions

BK231632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Mrs Gandhi has strongly denounced the opposition slogan that democracy is being murdered. She said this is meant to divert the attention of the people from the basic issues of the nation's unity and integrity.

She was addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I Party in parliament this morning.

The prime minister said that today all developing countries, particularly poor nations, are facing a threat to their integrity. Some elements in our own country are trying to take advantage of this. We must meet this challenge by involving people in development work. Even in the international arena we should continue to fight for the ideals and values to which we are committed.

Mrs Gandhi regretted that the opposition parties are only harping upon their unity without taking any stand on questions of policies and programs.

Mrs Gandhi cautioned her partymen against the attempts of the opposition parties to spread the rumor that everything is being planned at the center. She pointed out that various committees both at the central and state level discuss different issues and reach solutions. She would not usually interfere in matters concerning the states. But when some injustice is being done, she would intervene to set matters right.

President's Rule in Punjab Approved in Lok Sabha

BK231258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed a bill to amend the Constitution providing for continuance of president's rule in Punjab beyond 1 year. The president's rule, according to its provision, may be extended up to 2 years.

The home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, who piloted the bill said that it has been brought forward by way of abundant caution so that there is no constitutional crisis in the state. As at present, the president's rule cannot be continued beyond the 1st week of October.

Home Minister on 'Infiltrators' From Bangladesh

BK231610 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] The home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, told the upper house of parliament today that a large number of chakmas [tribal people] have infiltrated in Tripura and Mizoram from the Chittagong hills in Bangladesh.

He said despite denials by the Bangladesh Government, this is a fact. While most of the infiltrators have been sent back, a few are being kept in camps pending repatriation.

The house was also informed that insurgents of the organization called Tripura National Volunteers are operating from bases in Chittagong hill tracts. Bangladesh is also reported to be training these insurgents, although Dhaka has denied it.

Security Forces Apprehend 58 Suspected Terrorists

BK240548 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] In Punjab, the security forces have apprehended 58 suspected terrorists in continued mopping up operations during the last 48 hours. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that they include 36 activists of the banned All India Sikh Students' Federation. Some arms and ammunition have also been recovered from them.

The governor, Mr K.P. Satarawala, has asked for the manning of all vulnerable spots along the interstate canal. After an aerial inspection of the state canal system, he instructed round-the-clock patrolling of all other important [word indistinct].

PATRIOT Reports Pakistani Activities in Kashmir

BK211423 Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Aug 84 p 1

[By John Dayal]

[Text] Pakistan is constructing a network of secret roads in occupied Kashmir, according to information available in New Delhi.

As much as Rs 12 crore are being spent on the making of these roads in the narrow stretch of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, reaching close to the sensitive points on the line of control in the area.

Analysts point out that this network of roads cannot have civilian uses because of nature of the terrain, and their sole purpose seems to be designed to very quickly bring into the sector Army reinforcements stationed some distance away from the border.

The construction of these roads has caused anxiety in India, specially when it is viewed in conjunction with a 20 percent increase in Pakistan's defence budget, the induction of sophisticated arms and the setting up of high-grade training establishments.

Recent reports from Pakistan have spoken of the high degree of battle readiness of the Pakistan Armed Forces, and their redeployment in Pakistan's eastern sector, towards India. The Army command structure was refurbished earlier this year.

While the focus in the international press has been on the pace of Islamabad's making of nuclear bomb, and its heavy procurements of armament, war planes, helicopters and defence electronics from the U.S. and China, President Ziaul Haq has concentrated simultaneously on the manpower and its training.

Scotching the general impression that the Pakistani Armed Forces have become corrupt and slothful after their seven years of running civilian departments under the martial law, analysts have pointed out that the main combat corps and divisions have been meticulously isolated from civilian influences and have been kept in constant high-quality training. Special budgetary allocations have been made for training installations.

The most significant development has been in the creation of training facilities for the rapidly expanding Air Force with special emphasis on training of the crew as well as maintenance men. The latest reports had said the Air Force has formed a full-fledged combat wing with two squadrons flying the F-16 multi-role fighter craft. Pakistan has already been delivered ten of the 40 Flying Falcons promised to it by the U.S.

3 Killed by Air Raid; Afghan Envoy Summoned

BK241021 Karachi Overseas Service in English 1007 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Two Afghan aircraft again violated Pakistan's airspace over Teri Mangal area in the Northwest Frontier Province yesterday at 1200 [700 GMT] and penetrated about 1 km. The aircraft dropped two bombs in the area as a result of which three persons were killed and two others wounded.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and a strong protest was lodged with him on the continuing violation causing loss of life. The Kabul authorities have been told to cease and desist from these acts of aggression and that Pakistan reserved the right to act in an appropriate manner to exercise its right of self-defense. The UN secretary general is also being informed about the incident.

Reportage on Hijacking of Plane to Lahore

Permitted to Land

BK240612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] An Indian Airlines passenger plane has been hijacked to Lahore. The plane landed at the Lahore airport at 0940 [0440 GMT] this morning. According to the preliminary reports, 86 passengers are on board the flight and it was hijacked 30 minutes after takeoff from Chandigarh. The identity of the hijackers and the destination of the plane are still not known. The plane is said to have circled over the Lahore airport for a long time. It was later permitted to land at the airport keeping in view the safety of the passengers.

Plane Refueling Demanded

BK240820 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Excerpt] An Indian Airlines plane has been hijacked to Lahore. When the plane arrived over Lahore Airport, it informed the control tower that it had 27 minutes of fuel left. The control tower refused the plane permission to land. But when it was threatened that the plane would be forced to make an emergency landing, the Pakistani authorities permitted the plane to land to save human lives.

The plane's hijackers have not informed the Pakistani authorities of any demands or conditions, but they insist that the plane be fueled so that they can take it out of Lahore Airport. The hijackers have demanded fuel and threatened to begin killing the passengers if their demand is not met.

Aircraft Refueled

BK241040 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] The Indian Airlines Boeing 737 which has been hijacked to Lahore was allowed to land at the Lahore airport at 0915 [0415 GMT] this morning after the pilot confirmed that the aircraft was running acutely short of fuel. After landing, the hijackers demanded the refueling of the aircraft, threatening to kill the passengers on board and to blow up the aircraft if their demand was not immediately accepted by the Pakistani authorities.

The hijackers issued a threat to the passengers at 1114 [0614 GMT] to kill them and repeated this threat after every 5 minutes. At 1140 [0640 GMT] the hijackers threatened to kill the passengers one by one. They refused to present any demand to the Indian Government as they felt that the Indian authorities would not be receptive to any of their demands.

In view of the threats to the passengers and their repetition by the hijackers to kill them, the Pakistani authorities have allowed refueling of the aircraft. The hijackers have given further threats to kill all the passengers in case the aircraft was not allowed to take off.

Meanwhile, two Norwegian lady passengers have been released by the hijackers as they were very sick. The two ladies were provided prompt medical aid at the airport. One of them apparently suffered a heart attack and has been removed to a hospital.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who is now back in Islamabad from Romania, is deeply concerned with the safety of the passengers and has been in constant touch with the Pakistani authorities at the Lahore airport. There are a total of 86 passengers and a crew of 6 on board the plane which was on a flight from Delhi to Srinagar via Chandigarh and Jammu.

The Indian ambassador, Mr K.D. Sharma, accompanied by an additional secretary of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, has already reached Lahore Airport and the Indian ambassador is in touch with the Pakistani authorities. The Indian ambassador has been provided hot line facilities to keep the Indian Government informed of the latest situation.

Passengers, Crew Reported 'Safe'

BK241256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Excerpts] According to Radio Pakistan, the authorities at Lahore have begun negotiating with the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane. The radio said the Pakistan authorities are making efforts to get the passengers released.

The [Indian] civil aviation minister, Mr Khursheed Alam Khan, told the Rajya Sabha a short while ago that all passengers and crew of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane are safe. No one was hurt or injured. Answering questions, he said it is now learned that the pilot and the copilot were not unconscious. He said the hijackers were not having any other weapon except kirpan [dagger usually used by Sikhs]. The minister said they have not conveyed any demand to the government so far. The plane has been refueled. He said that according to one report, the hijackers have now indicated that they want the plane to fly to Bahrain. They had earlier informed the Pakistani authorities that they wanted to fly to the United States.

'All Passengers' Reported Released

BK241307 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 24 (AFP) — All passengers aboard an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 hijacked to here today during a domestic flight in northern India have been released, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) news agency reported.

Release of Passengers Denied

PA241410 Paris AFP in English 1356 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 24 (AFP) — The Pakistani Government today denied earlier reports that all passengers aboard a hijacked Indian Airlines plane had been released. The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) News Agency and national television had said at 1800 (1300 GMT) that the 84 passengers still aboard the Boeing 737 at Lahore Airport had been released. But government spokesman Yunus Sethi said only three extra passengers had been released at the request of the authorities. The passengers were an invalid, his wife and children. Two Norwegian tourists, one of whom had a heart attack, had been set free earlier. The hijackers are threatening to execute their hostages one by one if the plane was not allowed to take off. Officially 80 passengers and six crew members are still aboard the plane, which has been refuelled by Pakistani authorities. Indian Civil Aviation Minister Khursheed Alam Khan, who had also reported that the passengers were free, earlier said 96 passengers and crew were on the plane.

Airliner Departs With Passengers

PA241424 Paris AFP in Spanish 1410 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Islamabad, 24 Aug (AFP) — The Indian Airlines Boeing, which was hijacked and diverted here by Sikh hijackers, took off from the Pakistani airport of Lahore at 1840 local (1340 GMT) today, with the passengers on board, for an unknown destination, it was announced at the airport. The Boeing 737 is probably headed for the Gulf, possibly Dubai, airport sources indicated. The takeoff demanded by the hijackers had not been officially confirmed at 1850 local.

Hijackers Carrying 'Time Bomb'

BK241531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Excerpt] The Indian Airlines plane which was hijacked to Lahore this morning took off for an unknown destination at 1845 [1345 GMT] this evening. At the time of take off there were 81 passengers on board the airliner. The hijackers constantly demanded that they be supplied with fuel and the plane be allowed to take off, otherwise they would kill all the passengers and blow up the plane. The Pakistani authorities, realizing the serious threat to the lives of innocent people, agreed to refuel the plane. However, the Pakistani authorities requested that the hijackers release all the passengers. On the appeal made from the control tower on behalf of the Pakistani authorities, two Norwegian women were released. One of them suffered a heart attack and was given medical treatment and sent to a hospital. In another message, the Pakistani authorities tried to persuade the hijackers to release all the passengers. The hijackers released a handicapped Indian passenger, Mahesh Kumar Dhar, along with his wife and child. The Indian Ambassador, Mr K.D. Sharma, offered to meet with the released Indian family and he asked them about the welfare of other passengers and the attitude of the hijackers. Mr Dhar apprised the Indian ambassador about the tough attitude of the hijackers and said the hijackers have not even given food and water to the passengers. Mr Dhar also said that a crew member of the hijacked plane was seen with blood stains on his clothes. He also revealed that there are six hijackers and that they are carrying a camera-shaped time bomb which looks like a cylinder bomb and they also have sharp-edged weapons.

Earlier, the hijackers had threatened that if they were not allowed to take off, they would kill all of the passengers. The pilot of the hijacked plane, 30 minutes before taking off for an unknown destination, had confirmed this in a message to the control tower. The hijackers disrupted all contacts and refused to answer messages sent from the control tower. They forced the Indian plane on to the runway, although obstacles had been placed there. The obstacles were then removed from the runway to avoid an accident which could have threatened the lives of all passengers and crew and damaged the airliner. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq was deeply concerned about the safety of the passengers of the hijacked plane and until the plane took off for an unknown destination he was in constant touch with the Pakistani authorities in Lahore. Punjab Governor Ghulam Jilani Khan was present at Lahore Airport until the last moment.

Plane Lands in Karachi

BK241650 Hong Kong AFP in English 1638 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 24 (AFP) — A hijacked Indian aircraft carrying about 80 passengers has landed at Karachi, official sources said here. The plane landed more than two hours after it flew out of Lahore, Pakistan, for an unknown destination, which officials believed could be a Gulf state. The reasons for its landing at Karachi were not immediately known. The Indian Airlines plane was hijacked to Lahore today by alleged Sikh militants while on a domestic flight in northern India. In Dubai, a spokesman at the airport control tower said the plane had been refused permission to land at Dubai and had turned back to Karachi. It had not made any attempt to contact Abu Dhabi airport, some 150 kilometers (110 miles) to the north for permission to land before turning back, the spokesman added.

Spokesman on Indian Troops Killing Soldiers

BK241538 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] An official spokesman in Rawalpindi said today that two Pakistani soldiers were killed and one injured following an unprovoked shooting by Indian Armed Forces personnel at [name indistinct] river valley region in Kargil sector on Tuesday [21 August]. The spokesman said that the Pakistani soldiers were patrolling as usual when the Indian forces started firing from the

other side of the Line of Control which resulted in the death and injury to Pakistani soldiers.

President Zia Returns From Romanian Visit

BK241024 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Islamabad this morning after attending celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Socialist Republic of Romania. He was received at the airport by among others, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman, General Rahimuddin Khan; the Romanian ambassador in Pakistan; and high civil and military officials.

PAKISTAN TIMES on Sheykholeslami's Visit

GF171108 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mr Sheykholeslami, has disclosed that Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will visit Teheran in the near future and that the joint ministerial commission will meet shortly in Islamabad. Addressing a press conference after a two-day visit to Islamabad, during which he met Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Minister of Finance Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Interior Minister Mahmoud A. Haroon, and Petroleum Minister Dr Mohammad Asad, the Iranian deputy minister said that his visit had been a success. He also delivered a message from the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the President, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Asked about his meeting with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Mr Sheykholeslami said they had friendly discussion for over an hour. The talks were marked with mutual understanding. He conveyed the greetings of the Iranian leaders and also talked about bilateral relations and international issues. The Gulf war also figured during the talks, and he conveyed the views of the Iranian Government about Iraqi aggression and use of chemical weapons. He also talked about the agreements reached with the Pakistani ministers during his visit and filed a request to support the Iranian move in the U.N. for the expulsion of Israel from the world forum which was gaining more support.

In reply to a question, he said that the agreements with Pakistani ministers pertained to the commercial and economic relations between the two countries. These included border agreements to check illegal entry of smugglers and drug traffickers and agreements in regard to exchange of delegations in the fields of agriculture, trade and commerce, and purchase of oil, besides setting dates for the joint ministerial commission's meeting and arrival of the Pakistan foreign minister in Teheran.

In reply to a question, Mr Sheykholeslami discarded reports that Afghan refugees were pushed from Iran back to Afghanistan. He said that last week there were reports of discovery of 1,000 kilograms of heroin on the border which was the work of organised traffickers, including people from different nationalities. Replying to a question about delivery of two oil rigs to Pakistan, the deputy foreign minister said that the oil agreement was due to the renewed talks. Talks on its renewal would be undertaken shortly by the secretary of Pakistan ministry of petroleum and natural resources, Mr Mukhtar Masud, who was expected in Teheran shortly. Iran would be ready to offer more oil. He added one of the topics at the joint commission would be about lifting of oil. Asked about Iran's reaction to the formation of the new OIC peace committee, he said that the peace committee had not been able to fulfill its obligation. He added that because of its silence on naming the aggressor and silence over civilian crimes and the use of chemical weapons and attacks on tankers, the committee had lost its capability to bring about peace. Continuing, he said that the U.N. secretary-general went ahead and appealed to both countries not to attack civilian targets and use chemical weapons.

Answering another question, he denied the existence of any contact over the Afghan issue between the Iranian Government and the Soviets and through them with the Kabul regime. He said Iranian policy on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan had been consistent from the very beginning.

Earlier, talking to Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Mr Sheykholeslami said that Iran was keen to further expand economic, trade and commercial relations with Pakistan. The Iranian minister said that the cultural, historical and religious bonds between the two countries necessitate the advancement of economic and trade relations to a higher degree and "we are fully prepared to enhance these relations in all its perspective." He further said that there was wide scope for extending the volume of economic co-operation between the two countries and expressed satisfaction that the quantum of bilateral trade had increased considerably during the past few years.

Reciprocating the gesture, the finance minister also expressed satisfaction at the increase in the bilateral relations and appreciated that during the recent past Iran had emerged as the largest importer of Pakistan goods. He said that Pakistan, too, was eager to promote trade and commercial ties with Iran. The finance minister also appreciated Iran's initiative for revival of the Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD). Asked there were reports of differences between the military commanders and the ruling party about the conduct of war, the Iranian minister said that the reports were not true. Imam Khomeyni was the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and everybody listened to him. "There is full unity between the Revolutionary Guards and the Army, and there is no disagreement between the military apparatus and the political apparatus. That's why Iran has been victorious against superpowers." Official sources, confirming the visit of the foreign minister to Iran and the holding of joint commission meeting said that both would take place in September. He said that trade balance between Pakistan and Iran was in favour of Pakistan. Therefore, Iran encouraged Pakistan to buy more oil from it, he said. Replying to a question about the recent talks between Iranian and Pakistani officials in Quetta, he said these dealt at length with illegal crossing from the border and also the activities of bandits who operated across Iran-Pakistan border in Baluchistan.

SRI LANKA

State of Emergency Extension Proposal Passed

BK241119 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] The proposal to extend the state of emergency by a further month and the amendment to the Constitution and the election law were passed in parliament early this morning by a two-third majority — 122 members voted for the extension of emergency and for the amendment to the election law while 7 members expressed their opposition. All members present in parliament voted for the ninth amendment to the Sri Lanka Constitution.

Winding up the debate, the prime minister said that there would not be an end to terrorism even though a separate state had been set up in the country. The aim of the terrorists, he said, was to see that Sri Lanka is conquered by a foreign power. This was also the wish of the SLFP leaders, who do not say anything about the terrorists who are now in India.

The prime minister made it clear that the protection given to the terrorists by India was impeding the Sri Lanka Government's effort to wipe out terrorism from the land. However, he said that the Indian Government was demanding that Pakistan hand over the Sikh extremists who are protected by the Pakistani Government.

The prime minister appealed to the opposition to forget differences and unite even at this late stage. He said that opposition parties should contest the by-elections if they have confidence in democracy. But the prime minister regretted that certain opposition parties, which even admit that the presidential election was held in a reasonable manner, had decided to boycott the by-elections. He also pointed out that even the judiciary had endorsed the amendment to the election law. Parliament meets again on 4 September.

Jayewardene Prepared To Offer Amnesty to Guerillas

BK241215 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene said today he is prepared to offer a general amnesty to Tamil separatist guerrillas "if they give up their arms."

Mr. Jayewardene also told the right-wing newspaper *INDIAN EXPRESS* that he would make arrangements for the guerrillas to meet his government representative in a neutral country to discuss the amnesty terms.

He said he would consider giving some form of regional autonomy to the Tamils within the framework of Sri Lanka's Constitution, but ruled out an effective partition of the Sinhalese-majority country of 15 million. Tamil separatists are campaigning for a separate Tamil state in northern Sri Lanka where the country's 2.6 million Tamil minority is concentrated. The campaign has been marked by bloody violence. About 100 people died in the latest flare up earlier this month.

The president strongly defended his government's decision to use Israeli and British experts to counter terrorism in the country. He blamed India for reportedly stalling his efforts to get help from other sources.

"I would have been glad to receive help from anywhere, but I am told that the Government of India lobbied with various governments not to help us improve our intelligence and command operations," he told the newspaper. "We were left with no choice but to go to the Israelis and a British private firm for assistance," he said.

He described as outrageous Indian reports that Israelis were training Sri Lankans to assassinate the chief minister of the Indian Tamil Nadu state, M.G. Ramachandran. Mr. Ramachandran said earlier this week that he feared for his life and had information that Sri Lankan assassins were coming to India to kill him.

Referring to the government-sponsored conference seeking to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic problems, Mr. Jayewardine told the newspaper that once the guerrillas "renounce terrorism, they will be welcomed to participate in the all-party conference to consider what elements of devolution can be reasonably considered by the government within the framework of the second chamber."

But he ruled out any option that would lead to a de facto partition of the country.

"I certainly cannot allow a regional council consisting of the (Tamil dominated) northern and eastern provinces because that will be a virtual division of the country," he said.

The president said it was not enough for the major Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), to participate in the all-party conference. He said the TULF "must also begin to accept the outlines of our proposals," but added that "I realise they will have difficulty selling any proposal short of eelam (separate nation) to the Tamil extremists in the north."

Mr. Jayewardene also said he was willing to consider provincial councils as units of devolution for the entire country. "To begin with, the district councils now in existence will remain intact, but over a period of time provincial councils will be conceived," he said. The newspaper said Mr. Jayewardene's acceptance of the provincial council idea was of great significance.

Delhi Cites Official on Government Troop Attacks

BK231025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] The secretary at the Sri Lankan Ministry of State, Mr Douglas Liyanage, has conceded the troops had attacked civilians in strife-torn northern Sri Lanka, but he blamed some indisciplined soldiers for the incident.

Mr Liyanage, now on a visit to Israel, said in Tel Aviv that in the past 12 months, there had been three or four attacks against the civilians by government troops.

Government To Inquire on Official's Israel Visit

BK241145 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (AFP) — The government is to inquire into the visit to Israel by a senior state official and his statements there, official sources said.

State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis told parliament last night that President Junius Jayewardene planned to institute an inquiry into State Ministry Secretary Douglas Liyanage's visit to Israel.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, however, told parliament it was necessary to verify the accuracy of reports of the visit.

Mr Liyanage is reported to have met with Israeli Foreign Ministry chief David Kimche and to have told the Jerusalem POST in an interview published Wednesday that: "After all, all the Arab states and the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organisation) have embassies in Colombo. There is no reason not to have equality with Israel."

Sri Lanka suspended diplomatic relations with Israel in 1970, but last June allowed Israel to open an "interests section" here.

Mr Liyanage is also reported to have told the newspaper that Israeli security experts had "contributed to improving Sri Lanka's intelligence effort" to curb the activities of Tamil separatist guerrillas.

The government yesterday quickly distanced itself from Mr Liyanage's remarks, saying they were "his personal views."

"Mr Liyanage is not on an official mission, but on a private holiday. The Government of Sri Lanka was not aware of his visit to Israel," an official communique from the State Ministry said.

The visit has sparked protests from some Arab governments and sections of the local Moslem community.

The issue was raised in parliament yesterday by a Moslem parliamentarian from the ruling party and some opposition members.

They argued that it could affect Sri Lanka's tea and employment markets in the Middle East.

Opposition Asked To Join in All-Party Talks

BK181305 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 18 Aug 84

[Text] The government is seeking the cooperation of all political parties in obtaining a solution to the problem of terrorism. Terrorism affects the whole nation. It is a public issue. These observations were made by the state minister, Dr Anandatissa de Alwis, yesterday. The occasion was the inauguration of a new bus stand at Borella. Dr de Alwis said that opposition parties were issuing statements to newspapers without attending the all-party conference. Sri Lanka, which has become popular as a righteous land throughout the world following the principles of democracy, has now reached a state of countries, such as Lebanon, Ireland, and Cyprus. To completely wipe out terrorism, all of us should get together irrespective of caste, creed, or political differences. The minister stressed the need for the participation of opposition parties in the all-party conference.

Delhi Reports on TULF Letter to Jayewardene

BK171140 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 84

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front has appealed to President Jayewardene to order a judicial inquiry into the acts of terrorism in Sri Lanka. In a message to the Sri Lanka president, the front also asked him to secure an immediate political resolution to ethnic problems.

Tamil Leader Urges International Action on Issue

BK240536 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] The secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, has called for an immediate international action on finding a viable solution to ethnic problem is Sri Lanka. Talking to newsmen in Madras after a visit to the troubled areas, he said further aid to the island should be stopped if present persecution of Tamils continue. He said the Sri Lankan Government is not keen about a political solution, but only wants to impose a military solution.

Meanwhile, about 1,500 employees of the northern regional transport board in Jaffna District stopped work yesterday in protest against the Army action in the northern province.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Recent Bomb Attack

LD241332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Simultaneous with the beginning of Government Week, millions of the revolutionary ever-present people of our homeland — with their monolithic presence in the closed ranks of today's religious-political Friday prayers ceremonies throughout the country — emphasized their continuous all-round support for the government's remarkable activities and actions. This week's enemy-smashing Friday prayer ceremonies in Tehran were held most auspiciously with massive participation by the Muslim, Hezbollahi people in Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Referring to Government Week in his second sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Criticism, shortages, and enemy suggestions may cause the people not to be completely aware of the government's valuable services, which might result in a chasm between the people and the government. So it is the duty of the media throughout this week to clarify the government's tasks and services for the people. On the other hand, it should be understood that our revolution has not been the equivalent of a simple reform and changing of officials, and that we do not wish to pursue the former regime's facile policy comprising unbridled oil sales and pocketing of the money arising from them. To be fair, we should say that despite the war, the refugees, the partial economic blockade and terrorism, the government has worked hard. We should pay tribute to its work and hope that once these problems are overcome more fundamental work will be carried out.

Referring to the bomb planting tragedy in Railway Square, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin recording] This action, which was carried out yesterday merely to show off, was extremely revealing to our nation, the world and also to those luckless people who are in prison in this connection, as it demonstrated the odious face of the enemies of the Islamic Republic. What they have done in Railway Square has had no effect except these things which I have the honor to state. The people martyred during this incident, whether children, women or men, were among the most deprived and meek, because we know who appears most in Railway Square. The bomber himself also knows this, and the elements instigating him also knew this. A man might plant a bomb in a square where a number of wealthy people congregate, or others might pass among them. But in Railway Square, in the vicinity of Shush Avenue, those who have business in the railway are the meek class, as also are those who work there. If a man went to Railway Square for a break or for a breath of fresh air, he would be one of the meek to appear there. When someone plants a bomb there, what aim could he have and with whom does he wish to quarrel in a place where the day's street traders stand in the summer's heat, where people come to drink fruit juice from a stall — you can imagine who these people are. The person who planted the bomb there must have thought that that stall is always busy. At about 0900 in the hot sunshine, any passenger who arrives there is thirsty and goes there to drink fruit juice. Everyone who has the opportunity goes there to drink fruit juice. So when a man explodes a bomb there, he cannot possibly have any humane motivation. He could not possibly be pursuing an aim containing an iota of justification from the human standpoint. This demonstrates the filthy nature, the type and the mentality of these people.

We should also look at the time this bomb exploded from the standpoint of the repercussions and political uses. It took place at a time when your brothers and sisters in Mecca and Medina have created that momentous epic in the history of paying pilgrimage to God's house. The almost 100,000 strong demonstrations of last week, which the world is trying to forget by remaining silent, and the demonstrations which God willing these people will hold in Mecca with same strength, discipline and order — these are tantamount to something which has stopped the breath of world arrogance and confronted it with a new movement. Contrary to the pressure from world arrogance, the Government of Saudi Arabia too has finally bowed to righteousness and accepted reality. It has agreed that our Muslim people's demonstrations were not directed at their interests but were directed at those of Israel and of the foes of Islam and the infidels. They have accepted this reality, and have not harassed us; to this extent we are grateful to them. The world has maintained silence toward this course of events.

In such conditions when the Islamic Republic has begun an extremely fundamental movement through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations — and it is not at all far-fetched to believe that in the absence of any plot there we might succeed in removing the claw of this scorpion from that pit of scorpions and deliver a blow to the hornet's nest there; in such cirumstances where they created a plot in the Suez Canal which is gradually culminating in their disgrace and the world is beginning to become aware and recognize the face of the plotters — in such circumstances these people come along and create an incident of this nature!

It is obvious that these people wish to demonstrate a service to the world; they wish to feed the world press and world radios. If the world wished to say something about Iran it should report the Railway Square explosion instead of the demonstrations in Mecca. If it wished to say something about Iran it should report this explosion instead of the move in the United Nations. Or it should report both together! Such a move could have such political value for those people, that is for all our enemies. This is the sort of benefit that this could produce for themselves. In other words, I could concede that this is the sort of benefit that such action produces for these people. These people are mercenaries and truly hirelings and the opportunities of the day.

If reports were not disseminated about these people, their masters would not pay them. In order to convince France, the United States and the rest of the world to give them money, rations and support, these people must demonstrate their presence. This demonstration takes place at any price, in any form, so that they can say that they enjoy a presence. The scheme for announcing their presence by action is a means of venality for these people. This alone is sufficient for these people.

We notice that the Monafreqin have declared the coming week as a week of moves to fight the war, in which they wish to put propaganda pressure on the Islamic Republic in order to make it

renounce the war. Of course the entire world has brought such pressure to bear, but it did not produce any effect here. The United States, Russia, Britain, regional reaction — they all brought pressure to bear, but the Islamic Republic did not take a single backward step. This reminds one of the tale of the sparrow that sat on the tree; nothing happened, and when it it wanted to go it said to the tree: Brace yourself as I want to fly away. Now these people wish to make a move to stop the war! The war — just as we have said and we will repeat if anybody else comes — can only end in Saddam and the Ba'th Party being eliminated from Iraq and the Iraqi people liberated. [cheeers] [end recording]

Tehran's Friday imam added: On the other hand, planting a bomb in Railway Square is a blind reaction to the successes achieved by our selfless combatants in Kordestan where rural hamlets, extremely high mountain summits, unconquerable mountain passes and invincible redoubts have been conquered by our combatants during the past 2 weeks. A great many of these criminals' nests of corruption have been demolished. By planting a bomb, rolling in blood and soil and injuring a number of our compatriots, these filthy mercenaries have attempted to tarnish the issue of mopping up Kordestan.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The hypocrites have always believed that the government should be forced to adopt harsh measures; already when a great many of the contrite, even those who have perpetrated major crimes, are in the progress of being released, and when their release would deal a blow to the hypocrites — resorting to such a crime as planting a bomb in Railway Square in such circumstances could be tantamount to a course to continue their political life. However, the Islamic Republic will continue its Islamic course, and here I would like to tell the judges and public prosecutors that the Islamic Republic is not planning to seek revenge. One should observe Islamic compassion in all matters!

Addressing the French nation, Tehran's Friday imam said: This bomb-planting is the work of the hypocrites, monarchists, liberals, nationalists and other anti-Islamic groups who are currently being protected by the socialist gang ruling France and the French police. They are living in your homeland thanks to U.S. money. We are not terrrorists and do not intend to seek revenge from the French people. But we warn them that that filthy gang is protecting all these terrorists, and that in order to prevent the French nation's foot being dragged into the revenge-seeking of the Islamic nations in the future it should cut short the hand of this regime.

In conclusion, Tehran's Friday imam added: In connection with the problem of the Afghans, Pakistan and Afghanistan are already engaged in talks. We have never opposed talks, but we must say: If you cannot protect these people, do not attempt to deceive them. The United States and its Western gang have no rights whatsoever over the Afghan people, and so long as the USSR has not left that country and has not left the people of that country to follow their own path, and so long as the people have not obtained power to determine their destiny, one cannot agree to any conciliation. The Soviet Union should know that if the United States succeeded in Vietnam and Lebanon, it will also be successful in Afghanistan.

Musavi Condemns Attack

LD241219 Tehran IRNA in English 1217 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 25, IRNA — Thursday's bomb explosion in south Tehran has shown that the world arrogant powers have not understood the Islamic revolution and the Iranian Muslim people, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said at the Friday prayers gathering here today.

"We tell them (arrogant powers) we have seen a lot of bomb explosions. We saw the explosion at the Prime Ministry (on August 30, 1981), the martyrdom of the Raja'ies and the Bahonars and the Beheshtis and his 72 companions. If these explosions had any impact, this state would have been wrapped up at that time.

"This (latest bomb) shows they have not recognised the greatness and the depth of this revolution and the spirit of you people," Musavi said.

At least 18 people were martyred and 300 were injured by the powerful blast outside Tehran's crowded railway station Thursday morning. Heavy damage was inflicted on shops and buildings in the area.

The prime minister was speaking before the Friday prayers sermons of Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He said the strong foundations of the Islamic Republic were not based on the military, the secret police or on wealth but rather the determination of an aware nation.

"If this government has strength and firmly speaks its mind in the world and stands against the big powers...it is because of the steadfastness of the nation."

Musavi praised the Majlis for its popular tendency and stressed that no government could succeed without its confidence or help. He rejected foreign speculations that recent Majlis moves were an indication of conflict among Iranian leaders.

"(The Majlis) debated and studied three years of service by the ministers and the government and gave its vote with tremendous power. It also made some changes, the result of which would be in the interest of the nation and for the good of the country," he said.

Five Cabinet ministers failed to receive a confidence vote from the Majlis ten days ago. But at the same time the Majlis gave strong support to most of 18 other ministers, three of them new ones.

It also accepted the prime minister's nominations for three of the rejected ministers. Musavi himself received an overwhelming confidence vote on August 5.

"(Iran's enemies) said the Majlis vote of confidence and its moves in this connection were signs of conflict and difference among the officials of this revolution and the Islamic Republic. This was a natural reaction and it is obvious nothing else should be expected from the enemies of the Islamic revolution."

On recent corruption charges against government officials, the prime minister called on the people and the judiciary to take firm action and root out corruption.

He said the Islamic Republic could not tolerate corruption at a time of war "by a greedy group in our offices who are the agents of the big powers."

The government, he added, should not cast a veil on its problems and should speak out on such issues to the people.

Communique No 1,828 Reports on Latest Fighting

LD231658 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 23, IRNA — More than 33 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and eight weaponry positions, one bulldozer and several vehicles were destroyed in the northwestern theater during the last 24 hours, announced the Joint Staff Command communique number 1,828, issued on Thursday.

In the western front, artillery duels were more intense around the Mehran region of Ilam Province and Iranian artillary pounded enemy front lines, destroying five weaponry positions and two observation posts, the communique added.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr theatre, Islamic combatants continued their defensive operations, while putting enemy positions under fire destroying nine trenches.

Iraqi artillery shelling of Abadan damaged four houses and six shops, the communique said.

Oil Production Cut To Defend OPEC Prices

LD231732 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA — The present oil market indicates that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is being pressured from different sides, said Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi here today.

He said Iran accepted a 5-dollar PB [per barrel] price cut in 1983 and has now reduced its oil production to safeguard OPEC unity.

Despite the need to increase foreign currency reserves to meet the needs of the Iraqi imposed war and despite the Soviet's price cut of 1.5 dollars PB, Iran has taken the responsibility to defend OPEC prices, Gharazi said.

The minister added that Iran has voluntarily cut oil production but will not bring down OPEC's bench price.

He also said that international companies and imperialist powers are seeking to weaken OPEC.

Today Iran is producing 50 percent of the quota set for it by OPEC, he said.

President Addresses Iraqi Supreme Assembly Council

LD231008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] The Central Council of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq met yesterday in the presence of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. During the meeting, which lasted about 2 hours, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud Hashemi, president of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, spokesman of the Supreme Assembly, as well as the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Assembly, presented reports to the president about the present situation of the assembly, the progress made, and the successes achived by it.

President Khamene'i expressed his pleasure at the activities of the Supreme Assembly, the result of the efforts of its members, and said this may be regarded as the beginning of a great success. He said: Despite all these successes, we should not be content with them. A speedy but reasonable movement should be carried out in a continuous way, so that through initiative and by following up the issues, final successes can be achieved.

Explaining the present condition of the Islamic Republic of Iran in face of pressure from the superpowers, which has caused us to become involved in an imposed war, and the efforts made by the authorities to cope with difficulties resulting from this imposed war, the president of the Supreme Defense Council added: Despite all these difficulties our movement should not be stopped; rather it should advance toward the final goal with a powerful motivation. For 4 years the Islamic Republic of Iran has been engaged in an honorable and victorious defense, and the best, the most sincere and the most beloved section of the population, that is, the decisive majority of our society, have been helping us in this defense despite all the difficulties. It is a miracle that despite our involvement in the war we have been able to repair the destruction caused by the war and even the destruction existing before the victory of the Islamic revolution. This would not have been possible without the help of God and the powerful hands of the people, which has enabled us to achieve self-sufficiency.

Further on in his speech, emphasizing that in the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran only the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq is regarded as focal point and the center of struggle against the aggressive Iraqi regime, the president said: All the efforts made in the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at helping the Iraqi people should be carried out within the context of this assembly, which is the axis of all efforts.

Referring to the fact that both the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi brothers who are in charge of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq are duty-bound to collaborate in making sincere efforts for the strengthening of the assembly, the president said: Any movement which slights the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq is a counterrevolutionary act and demonstrates irresponsibility toward the aspirations of the Iraqi people, and the Iraqis will undoubtedly not overlook this.

All movements which are in parallel with the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq and all those who are working to set up rivals to that assembly are condemned. Their actions are a kind of sabotage.

Then President Khamene'i emphasized the need to attract suitable individuals to the Supreme Assembly. He explained the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war, and said: Our positions have not changed at all during the past 3 years, except that today they have become clearer and we can express them in international circles with greater political maturity. Today our positions are clearer and more explicit than ever before, and we have been able to make those positions understood in a most decisive way in international assemblies. Our positions are, that with the continued existence of Saddam in the region, hopes for peace are futile and impractical. This does not mean that the Islamic Republic is not in favor of peace. It means that with the existence of the principal element of warmongering which is the present Iraqi regime, the implementation of peace is not practical. Although the understanding between the Eastern and the Western powers and their collusion with the Iraqi regime has got us involved in an unwanted war, the superpowers experience further losses as time goes by, and the very existence and steadfastness of the Iranian nation is regarded as a great defeat for world arrogance and all their collaborators who assist the Iraqi regime. They have failed and have been unsuccessful in their goals, but each day we continue our existence stronger than the day before.

The president added: Four years ago we had nothing, but today we have everything. Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is regarded in OPEC as the only member which fights against the policy of reducing the price of oil. It is a sign of its strength that it can move with such power on important political issues.

In conclusion, emphasizing that in today's world of politics, time and speed of movement are very important and that the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq should take decisive positions with regard to important world issues, the president asked the Supreme Assembly to act as the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the oppressed Iraqi refugees who are guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Afghanistan

GF240627 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country has issued the following statement on the eve of the start of the fourth round of talks in Geneva to resolve the Afghanistan question:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While the Muslim nation of Afghanistan is in its fifth year of military occupation, the occupation forces, with their regular land and air attacks on the Muslim Mujahidin positions and on people who do not tolerate foreign control of their homeland, aretrying to strengthen their position. Along with the continuation of their occupation and the crushing of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, when almost one-fourth of the population of this country has left and emigrated to other countries because of a lack of security and the necessary conditions for living there,the superpowers are looking for ways to determine the future of this Islamic country through under-the-table political deals.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that these efforts have no legality, not only because of the nonparticipation of the Muslim Mujahidin, who are the real representatives of the people of Afghanistan, but also because they will have no other result but to secure the interests of the superpowers. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while believing in nonparticipation in these kinds of talks, thinks that the key to finding a solution to this problem and for the achievement of a Muslim Afghanistan — an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan — lies in an unconditional withdrawal from this country by the Soviet occupying forces, nondeployment of any other oppressive force in place of this force, an honorable return of the Afghan refugees to their own country, and allowing the Afghan nation the right to determine their own future.

The Islamic Republic of Iran stresses this.

Anti-Afghani Revolutionaries Launch Assault

GF210803 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries launched a surprise assault 9 August on the military security station in the province of Herat. This attack resulted in the death of 18 members of the Kabul regime forces. They seized quantities of weapons and ammunition. Among those killed in the Karmal regime forces were two senior officers and an adviser in political and military affairs.

Kuwait Expels 90 Iranians in Past Month

LD231835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] In line with its hostile stands against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kuwaiti Government arrested 90 Iranian workers who are resident of that country during the month from 23 July to 22 August. They were arrested for supporting the Islamic revolution. Having subjected them to maltreatment and harassment as well as confiscation of their property, the Kuwaiti Government then expelled them from the country.

According to IRNA, the expelled workers arrived at Bushehr and Genaveh through the Persian Gulf and were housed at a special camp in Bushehr.